REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending and unchanged. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Ims, et al. (US 2002/0091533 A1) ("Ims") and Merrick et al. (US 2005/0166209) ("Merrick"). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

Claim 1 recites features which Ims and Merrick fail to disclose or suggest, namely:

> (b) invoking a first service among the plurality of services during a logical routing of an application-level message in said message routing network, *said logical routing allowing said first service to act on said message without said message being physically delivered to said first service* over said public network, said first service invocation having a first context; and
>
> (c) invoking a second service among the plurality of services during said logical routing of said message in said message routing network, *said logical routing allowing said second service to act on said message without said message being physically delivered to said second service* over said public network, said second service invocation having a second context that is defined at least in part by said first service.
>
> (Emphasis added).

As described in one embodiment of the present application, "Message interchange network 150 also provides a mechanism for a service to act on a message without the message being physically delivered to the service . . .. With logical routing, a service can modify the routing of the message or modify the context of the message for delivery to the next service. Significantly, a service can be logically included in a message routing, without being included as part of the physical routing of the message." (paragraph 1087). As further explained, "Logical routing can take place statically or dynamically. With static logical routing, a message is logically routed to all services prior to any physical routing. In other words, message interchange network 150 logically routes the message to all services prior to the physical delivery of a message to any services." (paragraph 1089).

Claim 1 recites the features that the logical routing allows "said first service to act on said message without said message being physically delivered to said first service," and "said second service to act on said message without said message being physically delivered to said second service." Independent claims 14 and 28 recite similar features.

The cited passages of Ims fail to disclose or suggest the above-quoted features of claim 1. Ims makes no mention of logical routing in terms of a service acting on a message without the message being physically delivered to the service. Instead, Ims teaches physically delivery of a message to a designated service for processing. For example, in paragraph 91, "[b]lock 925 tests to see if there is a send action to process. If there is, *then block 930 performs the required hand-off for the send.*" (Emphasis added).

Other passages of Ims are silent as to the feature of logical routing without physical delivery of a message to a service. For instance, in processing the actions of a ServiceUnit, Ims only states that "[b]lock 915 tests to see if there is a transform action to process. If so, then Block 920 performs the indicated transformation . . .." (paragraph 0091). In view of the above teaching of physical delivery, the skilled artisan would interpret this passage as referring to physical delivery of the message to the specified service to perform the indicated transformation, that is, while the script is being processed.

In short, Ims describes logical routing in terms of physical delivery, but otherwise offers no disclosure or suggestion of even the possibility of a "said first service to act on said message without said message being physically delivered to said first service over said public network," or "said second service to act on said message without said message being physically delivered to said second service over said public network," as recited in claim 1.

The cited passages in Merrick fail to cure the deficiencies of Ims, when considered alone or in combination with Ims. For instance, paragraph 0009 speaks to the provision of input and output arguments, but makes no mention of a logical routing procedure, much less disclose or suggest a logical routing which allows a service to act on a message without the message being physically delivered to the service. Thus, even if Merrick could be combined with Ims, the combination would fail to teach all of the features of claim 1.[1]

Because Ims and Merrick, considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose the above-quoted features of claim 1, these references are insufficient to support the outstanding obviousness rejection of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

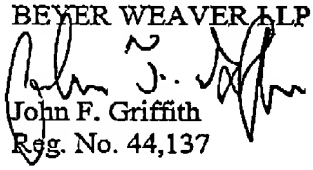
[1] Applicant reserves the right to also challenge the propriety of this combination at a later date, if necessary.

Independent claims 13, 14, and 28 recite similar features as claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for similar reasons as claim 1. The remaining claims are dependent upon claims 1, 13, 14, or 28 and are, therefore, patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim on which they are based. The rejections of these claims should also be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER LLP



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